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SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate the opportunity to address the body. This amendment I do support. Senator Schrock is adding some clarity to an amendment that we did on the committee amendment that was one that I had suggested a result of the committee hearing and testimony, so this amendment is clarifying. It was and is, I think, important to do, so I do support it. I also want to make just a couple of general comments here before we get into the bill too, and I was glad that Senator Schrock did mention that there were three different sections that were recommendations that I took from the testifiers in the public hearing that we were able to amend in the committee amendment. Senator Schrock and Jody Gittins, the legal counsel, worked together with me to make those The amendment wasn't exactly what I had wanted, but changes. most of it in those three was captured and is currently in the committee amendment. I think they do add some enhancement. of those deals with another amendment that I do have up, and the reason that I'm continuing to work on that is because I think it is crucial that the public have access to information. although the committee worked on this and we spent a lot of time, and I appreciate Senator Schrock's cooperation, and as a rule, when you work together cooperatively, you come to an agreement, you support that agreement. And although we didn't have anything beyond that kind of general agreement, I tend to believe my word and keep my word and want to hold to what may be even an understood or accepted kind of agreement. So my efforts today are not to undermine Senator Schrock or to even infer that we didn't have good discussions, and he was certainly willing to compromise, if we would call it that, to put these amendments into the committee amendment, and I'm grateful that that was It...the one portion of those three didn't fully get at what I wanted to do, so I will be attempting to deal with that That's one of my goals. The other is just to help today. people to understand what we're doing. This is technical. It's rather complicated. There are different implications, a number of which I'm not sure I still understand. When it's somewhat new to the majority of the body, I don't know that other people are going to really understand what's being The concept, as Senator Schrock rightfully said, is to merge two programs into one--the state NDEQ program into the federal NPDES program. And, as Senator Schrock said, we don't